

**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION REPORT  
 MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2003 – 1000 MST  
 NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 2**

**CURRENT SITUATION:**

Initial attack activity was light nationally, with 47 new fires reported March 21st through March 23rd. Three new large fires were reported in the Southern Area.

COLUMBIA RESPONSE, Federal Emergency Management Agency. A FEMA Emergency Operations Center has been established in Lufkin, Texas. Four Type 1 Incident Management Teams (Lohrey, Oltrogge, Anderson and Ferguson) are assigned in Corsicana, Hemphill, Palestine and Nacogdoches, Texas. One Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hildreth) is assigned in Longview, Texas. Forty-eight agencies are cooperating in the search and collection of shuttle materials.

NEWCASTLE, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA. State and Federal personnel have been mobilized in response to the outbreak of the Exotic Newcastle Disease. They are working in support of the USDA APHIS operation under a Unified Command. Support operations are being conducted in Arizona, California, and Nevada.

**SOUTHERN AREA LARGE FIRES:**

251<sup>ST</sup> STREET FIRE, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is near Bixby, OK and is burning in a mixed stand of oak and tall grasses. The fire made significant runs up steep canyon walls. Wind speeds of eight miles per hour were observed with temperatures in the mid 70's.

4 CORNER'S FIRE, Oklahoma Division of Forestry. This fire is near Peggs, OK and is burning in oak and patches of tall grass. The fire made several short runs being pushed by gusty winds. Wind speeds of fourteen miles per hour were observed with temperatures in the low 70's.

CENIZA, Amistad National Recreation Area. This fire is near Langtry, TX and is burning in river cane and willows. Wind speeds of ten to twenty miles per hour were observed with temperatures in the 80's. Personnel are mopping up.

INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	SIZE	% CTN	EST CTN	TOTL PERS	CRW	ENG	HELI	STRC LOST	\$\$\$ CTD
251 <sup>ST</sup> . STREET FIRE	OK	OKS	2,500	65	03/24	21	0	5	0	0	NR
4 CORNERS FIRE	OK	OKS	140	85	03/24	13	0	4	0	0	NR
CENIZA	TX	AMP	330	90	03/24	21	1	0	0	0	\$2K

**\*\*\* A RED FLAG WARNING HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR THE FLORDIA PANHANDLE AND EAST-CENTRAL FLORDIA FOR LOW REALTIVE HUMIDITY.\*\*\***

**\*\*\*A FIRE WEATHER WATCH HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR WEST-CENTRAL FLORDIA FOR LOW REALTIVE HUMIDITY.\*\*\***

### **OUTLOOK:**

The Southern Area can expect high pressure and dry weather with lower relative humidity. Relative humidity will range from 30 to 40 percent for much of the area. Showers and thunderstorms are forecast Tuesday through Thursday with the next cold front will increase humidity's and provide some rain fall. A potentially significant event will be a very strong cold front Friday and Saturday. Severe weather including tornadic activity and heavy rain fall is possible. A dramatic and brief cool down in temperatures with lows near freezing are expected as far south as the Gulf coast.



[www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/index\\_j.asp](http://www.nifc.gov/sixminutes/index_j.asp)

### **EXTREME FIRE BEHAVIOR**

Extreme fire behavior has always been present in cases of shelter deployment. It is critical for firefighters to maintain situational awareness of live and dead fuel moisture conditions as well as predicted and current weather conditions. As fire behavior changes, it is critical to act decisively to the changing situation.

● Discuss the following indicators of extreme fire behavior:

- Relative humidity less than 15%
- 1-hour fuel moisture less than 5%
- Trees crowning inside the fireline
- Smoldering fires that exist in the early part of the day are beginning to burn very actively as the day progresses.
- Approaching thunderheads with dark clouds beneath
- Presence of dust devils indicating an unstable atmosphere
- Increased spotting
- Sudden calm
- High clouds moving fast in direction different from surface wind
- Predicted Haines Index of 5 and 6 in those areas where this level is a good indicator of atmospheric instability

**FIRES AND ACRES MARCH 21 - MARCH 23:**

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		2			1	1	4
	ACRES		0			0	0	0
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Rocky Mountain	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Area	FIRES	3				1	2	6
	ACRES	9				1	8	18
Southern Area	FIRES	1				30	6	37
	ACRES	80				437	88	605
TOTAL	FIRES	4	2	0	0	32	9	47
	ACRES	89	0	0	0	438	96	623

**FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:**

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES				1	42		43
	ACRES				432	183		615
Northwest	FIRES	1						1
	ACRES	0						0
Northern California	FIRES				3	45	9	57
	ACRES				2,165	10	2	2,177
Southern California	FIRES	1	4			171	38	214
	ACRES	0	1			29	12	42
Northern Rockies	FIRES					1		1
	ACRES					29		29
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		3			1	1	5
	ACRES		0			0	0	0
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES	8	8	1		60	31	108
	ACRES	25	1,318	274		357	31	2,005
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	4	3		1	6	3	17
	ACRES	9	0		200	121	15	345
Eastern Area	FIRES	7			3	169	45	224
	ACRES	21			2	2,105	530	2,658
Southern Area	FIRES	57		5	3	4,946	139	5,150
	ACRES	6,961		755	530	52,398	3,161	63,805
TOTAL	FIRES	78	18	6	11	5,441	266	5,820
	ACRES	7,016	1,319	1,029	3,329	55,232	3,751	71,676

<b>Eight Year Average Fires</b>	<b>14,425</b>
<b>Eight Year Average Acres</b>	<b>264,483</b>

\*\*\*Averages are computed from data reported to NICC during the fourth reporting period in March\*\*\*

and

\*\*\*Changes in some agency YTD acres reflect more accurate mapping or reporting adjustments\*\*\*

**PRESCRIBED FIRES AND ACRES MARCH 21 – MARCH 24:**

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES						0	0
	ACRES						90	90
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		2					2
	ACRES		53					53
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	2						2
	ACRES	270						270
Eastern Area	FIRES						1	1
	ACRES						118	118
Southern Area	FIRES	1		13		1	24	39
	ACRES	60		6,136		509	60,039	66,744
TOTAL	FIRES	3	2	13	0	1	25	44
	ACRES	330	53	6,136	0	509	60,247	67,275

**PRESCRIBED FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:**

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES	3	60	13			49	125
	ACRES	4	3,410	1,880			1,287	6,581
Northern California	FIRES	1	7	3	6		37	54
	ACRES	31	110	5,147	495		2,944	8,727
Southern California	FIRES		1		1		59	61
	ACRES		5		2		5,571	5,578
Northern Rockies	FIRES		1				2	3
	ACRES		13				118	131
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		3			4		7
	ACRES		56			121		177
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES	3	2	1	1		152	159
	ACRES	460	197	550	1,000		4,956	7,163
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	7	2	4	5	2	14	34
	ACRES	424	110	125	349	39	576	1,623
Eastern Area	FIRES			14	2	3	51	70
	ACRES			2,049	258	1,236	6,282	9,825
Southern Area	FIRES	30		161	20	5,588	683	6,482
	ACRES	5,320		55,375	37,151	354,633	579,537	1,032,016
TOTAL	FIRES	44	76	196	35	5,597	1,047	6,995
	ACRES	6,239	3,901	65,126	39,255	356,029	601,271	1,071,821

\*\*\* Changes in some agency YTD acres reflect more accurate mapping or reporting adjustments. \*\*\*

**WFU FIRES AND ACRES YEAR-TO-DATE:**

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Rocky Mountain	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Area	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern Area	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
TOTAL	FIRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ACRES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*\*\* Changes in some agency YTD acres reflect more accurate mapping or reporting adjustments. \*\*\*

**RESOURCES STATUS: COMMITTED RESOURCES**

AREA	CREWS FED	CREWS ST/OT	ENGS FED	ENGS ST/OT	HELI FED	HELI ST/OT	AIRT FED	AIRT ST/OT	OVRHD FED	OVRHD ST/OT
Alaska										
Northwest										
Northern California										
Southern California				20					33	298
Northern Rockies										
Eastern Great Basin										
Western Great Basin									10	49
Southwest									6	
Rocky Mountain										
Eastern Area			10		1				109	1
Southern Area	112	62	11	9	3				464	1326
Total	112	62	21	29	4	0	0	0	622	1674

\*\*\* NATIONAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATION CENTER \*\*\*